



4050 80th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Fl

# SKYVIEW BULLETIN

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## WE ARE DIFFERENT



Two people can be in the same environment; one may rejoice and the other may be discouraged by the same surroundings. Two people can work at the same place; one can be happy and content, while the other may be critical and unhappy. Two people can own the same make and model of an automobile; one loves and praises it, the other wishes they had never bought it. Two people can be in the same congregation; one is content while the other constantly is critical of the singing, preaching, teaching, leadership and everything else about the congregation.

This all points to the fact that we are all different. We have different background experiences. We have different needs. We perceive things differently. We learn differently. We understand differently. We grasp things differently. We feel acceptance or rejection differently. We find purpose differently. This is neither "good" or "bad," it is just real.

Parents learn that two children, with the same mother and father, the same training and discipline, the same family environment can be totally different from each other. The story of the sons of Isaac illustrate this fact. Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons, named Jacob and Esau. The Bible gives this record: *"The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents"* (Genesis 25:27). Remember, these boys were twins, yet they were completely different. This difference in these twin sons led to partiality being shown by Isaac and Rebekah. *"Isaac loved Esau.....but Rebekah loved Jacob"* (verse 28). As the story unfolds, this difference led to some difficulties as these boys developed into manhood.

When it comes to our spiritual family, the church, we must accept the fact that people are different. This fact does not bother God, but it sure bothers us! We are often upset when people are not just like us. We want everyone to think like we think, share the same opinions we have, do things like we do them and when this does not happen we are often very unhappy. We think everyone should come from the same "cookie cutter." But reality demands that when it comes to God's kingdom we must be flexible, always learning, always maturing spiritually in our understanding of God's priorities and purposes. When we learn that we are all different, yet accepted by God, we are well on our way to understanding what our life in the kingdom is all about.

The fact that we can all be used by God even with our differences is demonstrated by Jesus in His choice of apostles. Fishermen, a politician in a corrupt government who was despised by his peers, a physician, a thief who would later betray Jesus, made up the band of disciples chosen by Jesus to do His work. A more diverse group probably could not have been found. Yet, they all had one thing in common—their belief in Jesus and His Cause. (continued on back page)

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### ELDERS

**Ron Bastien  
Don Greenlee  
Charles Murray  
David Roberts**

### DEACONS

**Ron Bentz  
Frank Edwards  
Jim Ingram  
George Loyd  
Andy Murray  
Dennis Trask  
Brad VanHaerents**

### PREACHER

**Charles Murray**

### MEN WE SUPPORT

**William Stewart--Kingston, Canada  
Bob Owen — Trip to Europe  
Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba**

### WORSHIP TIMES

#### SUNDAY

**Worship.....9:30 A.M.  
Classes.....10:50 A.M.  
Worship.....6:00 P.M.**

### WORSHIP PLACE

**4050 80th Ave N  
PO Box 3118  
Pinellas Park, Fla. 33780**

**WEB: [skyviewchurch.org](http://skyviewchurch.org)**

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So, since we are all different and once we are able to realize this fact, how do we all get along and work with each other in God's Kingdom? This is the second hardest thing to do. The first hard thing is to realize we are different; the second hardest thing is to determine we are going to work together in spite of our differences.

We must realize that we are not talking about doctrinal matters. Even if we are different we are commanded to "...agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you be perfectly united in mind and thought" ( 1 Corinthians 1:10). When it comes to following the teachings and examples of the New Testament, there can be no differences, there must be agreement and unity.

However, many of our problems do not originate over doctrinal issues, but in matters of judgment. This is often where we do not "see-eye-to-eye" and our differences surface. Because of our various backgrounds, stages of spiritual growth and development, our personal likes and dislikes, and even the difference in ages, we often are in conflict. This is where we need to exercise great care to "agree with one another so that there may be no divisions." We can all recognize that often older people, because of knowledge and experience, may be wiser than young people in certain areas. On the other hand, often older people believe that because of their age and experience their judgment may be better than that of younger people. The tendency often among older people is to oppose change of any kind, while younger folks may see some benefit in doing things differently.



**“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification”**

So, again, how can we work together and unite in the work of the Lord? We have some instruction in the New Testament that can give us some guidance. Paul commended a family of Christians who were the first converts in Achaia. Notice his instructions to the church at Corinth: " You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints. I urge you, brothers, to submit to such as these and to everyone who joins in the work, and labors at it" (1 Corinthians 16:15-17). Paul told the Corinthians to submit themselves to their brethren. Paul told the church in Ephesus: "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" ( Ephesians 5:21). It is important to understand that Paul did not say submit to those you may agree with—he said to submit to one another. Of course we need to understand that Paul is not talking about submitting to error, but in matters of judgment.

Wives are told to submit to their husbands (Ephesians 5:22). This does not mean to submit only when wives agree with their husbands. Congregations are told to submit to their leaders (elders), (Hebrews 13:17). This does not mean to submit only when the congregation agrees with the elders' decisions. We are told to submit to civil authorities ( 1 Peter 2:13). This does not mean to submit only when we are in agreement with the government.

Romans 14 deals with brethren who have differences. While we may not have the issue of eating meat sacrificed to idols to deal with, we often have to deal with other issues of difference. Paul sums up his discourse to the Romans with an admonition that is relevant today: "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification" (Romans 14:19). This is what we must do. Even if it is not what I want. Even if it goes against my wishes. Even if I think it is the wrong decision. The key word is "submit." This means that I may have to give up my opinion and submit to someone else's. A person who submits to others, even when they disagree, is a much bigger person than the one who is determined to "get-their-way" regardless of how others feel.

God can forgive all who come to Jesus—even if they are different from us. God can give grace and mercy to anyone—even if he or she is different. God can make a son or daughter from anyone—even when he or she is different. It is a matter of submission. All who submit to God and obey His Word are accepted by God. Through obedience to Christ, God can place anyone in His kingdom and use him or her—even if he or she is different!

Our challenge: Be as flexible as God is in meeting and encouraging us who are different. Be submissive to others, even if we don't always agree. Let each of us make the effort to do what leads to peace. CEM

**Adult  
Auditorium  
New class  
beginning in  
January:  
The Life Of Christ**

**GOD'S  
PLAN OF SALVATION**  
**Believe—Heb. 11:6**  
**Repent—Luke 13:3**  
**Confess—Rom. 10:9**  
**Be Baptized—  
Mk.16:16, Acts 2:38,  
1 Pet. 3:21**